

On the Pselaphidæ of Australia, by the

REV. R. L. KING, B.A.

2ND PAPER.

[Read 7th September, 1863.]

In the paper on this subject, which I had the honour to read before the Society in November last, there was an unfortunate mistake which I did not discover until it had been printed in the first Part of the Transactions. The new species described by myself are all stated at twice their proper size.

From subsequent observations, I am of opinion that the species described as *Tmesiphorus hesperi* is the female form of *T. vernalis*. I propose to retain the latter name, and to supply the following amended description.

TMESIPHORUS VERNALIS.

Castaneus, elytris pallidioribus : thorace ad basin depresso, lateribus anticè contractis posticè subparallelis ; abdomine marginato.

Mas :—antennarum articulis 4 ultimis elongatis.

Femina :—antennarum articulo ultimo 2^{bus} precedentibus longiori.

Long. $\frac{6}{100}$.

Paramatta.

The male is slightly larger than the female.

Since my former paper was written, the female of *Tmesiphorus MacLeayi* has been found by W. MacLeay, Esq., and also by Mr. Masters. This enables me to amend my description of that fine species, of which I had previously only seen the male form.

TMESIPHORUS MACLEAYII.

Ferrugineus vel piceo-castaneus ; antennarum maris articulis 9 et 11 longitudine subæqualibus, feminae antennarum clava 3-articulata articulo ultimo majori ; thorace obcor-

dato, convexo, lateribus antice convexis postice contractis ; abdomine marginato bicarinato.

Long. $\frac{10}{100}$.

Lane Cove and Illawarra by W. MacLeay, Esq.

Petersham by Mr. Masters. Paramatta, R.L.K.

The Illawarra specimen, a female, was found under bark, in company with *Heterognathus Armitagei*, and some small ants.

TYRUS SUBULATUS.

Piceus creberrime punctatus sub lente setosus ; capite ante oculos excavata ; antennarum clava sub-triarticulata articulo ultimo magno ; palporum maxillarium articulo ultimo prope basin inflato, ad apicem subulato ; thorace ante medium latiori, antice rotundato, postice leviter contracto ; elytris linea suturali altera discoidali dimidiata notatis ; abdominis segmento 2^{do} magno.

Long. $\frac{7}{100}$. Pl. VII., fig. 6.

Paramatta, Dunheved. Not infrequent in Autumn under stones, &c.

The last joint of the maxillary palpus clearly distinguishes this fine species from its congeners.

TYCHUS NIGRICOLLIS.

Niger, elytris castaneis, sutura nigri cante ; capite polito, 2^{bus}. inter oculos impressionibus, antennarum maris articulo 10^{mo} denticulato 11^{mo} excavato ; thorace obcordato non foveolato ; elytris linea suturali nulla discoidali.

Long. $\frac{6}{100}$. Pl. VII., fig. 7.

Paramatta. Sydney, Mr. Masters.

I captured a few individuals of this species under the trunk of a dead tree in a very moist situation ; October 12th. It is more agile than most of the Pselaphidæ.

The 5th joint of the antennæ in the male is almost globular and has a rather prominent tubercle. The corresponding joint in the female is as long as that in the male, but hardly thicker than the other joints.

Eight species of this genus appear to have been described—four of which are European, and four from North America.

BATRISUS ELIZABETHÆ.

Piceo-castaneus setosus; capite subquadrato ad basin antennarum elevato, linea curvata transversa, foveis inter oculos duabus; thorace 2^{bus} lineis longitudinalibus in 3 partes diviso, inter lineis gibboso; elytris linea suturali altera discoidali notatis; abdominis segmento 2^{do} magno.

Long. $\frac{7}{100}$.

Sydney.

This species was found by W. S. MacLeay, Esq., in his garden at Elizabeth Bay. The thorax is widest at the middle, from which point it is somewhat suddenly contracted in both directions. The central space between the longitudinal lines is very convex. The neck is rather long; the antennæ and maxillary palpi are very like those of *Batrisus hamatus*. Not having had the opportunity of subjecting this species to microscopical inspection, I refer it to the genus *Batrisus* with some degree of hesitation.

BRYAXIS ARMITAGEI.

Polita piceo-castanea elytris pallidioribus; capite thorace latiori, 2^{bus} impressionibus inter oculos minutis, fossula transversa pone antennarum basin; antennarum clava 2-articulata; thorace obcordato glabro, impressione parva media prope basin unico; elytris politis stria suturali nulla discoidali; abdomine setoso, segmento 2^{do} reliquis multo majori.

Long. $\frac{6}{100}$. Pl. VII., fig. 15.

Under dead wood on the ground, Paramatta.

The antennæ are of the ordinary form, except that the 9th joint is narrower than the 8th, but longer,—a character which makes the club apparently biarticulate.

The logs under which this species (several specimens) was found were half buried in the ground.

BRYAXIS CLAVATULA.

Pallide castanea polita non setosa; antennarum articulo 9 decimo longiori, articulo ultimo longe maximo; thorace obcordato elytris magnis linea nulla discoidali; abdominis segmentis subæqualibus.

Long. $\frac{3}{100}$. Pl. VII., fig. 12.

Sydney.

This minute species was discovered under wood and stones, in the grass at Elizabeth Bay, by W. S. MacLeay, Esq. I captured a single specimen under a stone near the sea beach in the same locality, August 3rd, 1863. The species comes very near *B. polita*, but is much smaller. The antipenultimate joint of the antennæ is considerably longer but narrower than the penultimate, while the last joint is very large in comparison.

BRYAXIS ELIZABETHÆ.

Piceo-castanea polita non setosa; antennis 10-articulatis, articulo penultimo 8^{vo} et 10^{mo} latiori, appendiculato; elytris magnis; abdominis segmentis sub-æqualibus vix marginatis.

Long. $\frac{3}{100}$. Pl. VII., fig. 8, 9.
Sydney.

This very distinct and interesting species was also discovered by W. S. MacLeay, Esq., in his garden at Elizabeth Bay, and to him I am indebted for specimens and permission to describe it. Its 10-jointed antennæ at once distinguish it from all its Australian congeners hitherto discovered. There are three species of the genus which agree with it in this character, (which indeed when considered in connection with the scarcely margined abdomen is almost of such importance as to indicate a new genus) described from North America. Seen with a lens the antennæ are remarkable for the shortness of the joints, 3 to 7, and for the large size of the penultimate joint. The former of these peculiarities, as well as its general form, brings it near to *B. Exigua*: when mounted for microscopical inspection in Canada Balsam it is easily seen that the external part of the 9th joint is curved downwards until it almost touches the preceding joint.

It is probable that this and the preceding species are common enough near the beach. But their extreme minuteness enables them to escape any but a practised eye.

Mr. William MacLeay has in his extensive collection a Pselaphidæous insect from the Cataract River, found under a stone. It resembles the description given of *Tyrus humeralis* of Westwood, a species found at Melbourne in ant's nests. The specimen however is not in a good position for examination.

P.S.—Since the above paper was presented to the Society, I have obtained proof that *Narcodes pulchra* is (as suspected before) the male of *N. varia*: also that *Bryaxis linearis* and probably *B. sculpta*, properly belong to the genus *Euplectus*. Descriptions of these species, with those of several new forms from the Currajong and other places, will supply matter for a third paper on this interesting family.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE VII.

- Fig. 6. Palpus of *Tyrus subulatus*.
 7. Antenna of *Tychus nigricollis*.
 8, 9. Antenna and thorax of *Bryaxis Elizabethæ*.
 10, 11. Ditto ditto of *Bryaxis exigua*.
 12. Antenna of *Bryaxis clavatula*.
 13, 14. Antenna and thorax of *Bryaxis polita*.
 15. Antenna of *Bryaxis Armitagei*.

Descriptions of new genera and species of Coleoptera from Port Denison, by WILLIAM MACLEAY, Junr., Esq., M.L.A.

[Read 5th October, 1863.]

It is now considerably more than a year since I became the possessor of a very fine collection of insects from Port Denison, North Australia. That collection, which was made by Mr. Masters, a member of our Society, comprised Insects of all orders, and, as might have been expected from the latitude and character of the country in which they were found, was composed for the most part of new species.

Of these, I have already described a considerable number in the several Papers which I have contributed to this Society, and I now purpose to include in this and subsequent Papers all the species not yet noticed which appear to me to differ from those inhabiting other parts of Australia. I have passed over in this Paper the *Philhydridae* and *Brachelytra* of the collection, as I intend to place the novelties of the former group in the hands of